



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NOAA FISHERIES ADJUSTS ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA DAILY RETENTION LIMITS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) adjusts the daily retention limit for the commercial General category and the recreational Charterboat fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) for the 2005 fishing year as described below. This action is being taken to enhance commercial General category and recreational Charterboat BFT fishing opportunities for all geographic areas.

Permit Category	Effective Dates	Areas	BFT Size Class Limit
GENERAL	June 1 through June 5, 2005, inclusive	ALL	One BFT 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL) or larger
	June 6 through August 31, 2005, inclusive	ALL	Two BFT 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL) or larger
	September 1, 2005, through January 31, 2006, inclusive	ALL	One BFT 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or larger
CHARTER/ HEADBOAT	June 1 through June 16, 2005, inclusive	ALL	One BFT 27 to less than 73 inches (69 to less than 185 cm) CFL
	June 17 through July 31, 2005, inclusive	ALL	Three BFT 27 to less than 73 inches (69 to less than 185 cm) CFL. Of the three BFT, a maximum of two BFT are allowed measuring 27 to less than 47 inches (69 to less than 119 cm) CFL
	August 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006, inclusive	ALL	One BFT 27 to less than 73 inches (69 to less than 185 cm) CFL
ANGLING	June 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006, inclusive	ALL	One BFT 27 to less than 73 inches (69 to less than 185 cm) CFL

Above trip limits are per vessel per day/trip.

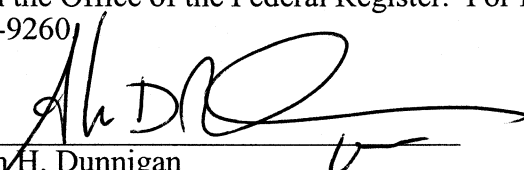


Persons aboard a vessel issued an HMS Charter/Headboat permit may retain and land BFT under the daily limits and quotas applicable to the Angling category or the General category. The size category of the first BFT retained on an HMS Charter/Headboat will determine the fishing category applicable to the vessel that day.

In addition to the daily retention limit, the Angling category trophy fishery for large medium and giant BFT (measuring 73 inches or greater) is open in all areas, with a retention limit of one fish per vessel per year. All BFT landed MUST be reported within 24 hours of landing to the www.nmfspermits.com website or by calling 888-872-8862 or, if landed in the states of North Carolina or Maryland, to a reporting station prior to offloading. Information can be obtained in North Carolina by calling (800) 338-7804, and in Maryland by calling (410) 213-1531.

NOAA Fisheries may determine that additional actions are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or, to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas. Subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, shall be announced through publication in the Federal Register. In addition, permit holders may visit our website, www.nmfspermits.com or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery permit holders to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information contact Brad McHale, 978-281-9260.


John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date